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31 January 1967

MEMORAMBUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SERVICE : Estimates of Casualties in North Vietnam

- 1. This memorandum is for your information and summarines the onsumlty estimates from air attack in North Vietnam.
- 2. There are four key documents which contain the estimates of casualties from the air campaigns. The basic document is The Effectiveness of the Air Campaigns Assinst North Vietnam, 1 January—30 Esptember 1955. This is the so-called McRamara III report. On page 14 it gave the following table:

	1965	Jen-Sept 1966	Total
Civilians Attacks on Fixed targets	6,000 2,000	11,900 700	17,900 2,700
Attacks on armed recon- naissance missions	4,000	11,200	15,200
Military Attacks on fixed targets	7,200 4,300	3,800 400	11,000
Attacks on armed recon- naiseance missions	2,900	3,400	6,300
TOPAL	13,200	<u>15,700</u>	28,900

3. The three other key documents which draw on these figures are: (1) Memorandum for the President, dated 16 January 1967, subject: Rushing Casualties in North Vietnam; (2) the follow-up to Senator Russell from the January briefing, "Selected Data on Vietnam" - Casualties in North Vietnam," dated 10 January 1967; (3) the memorandum to be released by Defense or State -- uncertain as to which as of today -- on the casualty numbers.

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- 3. All of these four documents are consistent since the latter three draw exclusively on the first. All of these estimates are CIA produced.
- h. The so-called McMemora IV, entitled, The Holling Thunder Program Present and Potential Target Systems, dated January 1967, updates the casualty figures through the end of 1966. It is, so far, the only document which does so. On page 4 it contains the following table:

Estimated Casualties from Rolling Thunder 1965-66

	1965	1966	Total		
Civilians	6,000	17,900 to 20,200	23,900 to 26,200		
Fixed targets Armed reconnaissance	2,000 4,000	900 1 7, 000 to 19 ,3 00	2,9 00 21 ,00 0 to 23,3 00		
Military	1,200	4,65 0	11,850		
Fixed targets Armed reconnaissance	4,300 2,900	400 4,250	4,7 00 7, 150		
TOPAL	13,200	22,550 to 24,850	35,750 to 38,050		

Preliminary estimates.

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identical in both tables. The full year 1966 figures are labeled preliminary because a range has been introduced on civilian escualties from armed recommaissance. The lower end of the range, 17,000 has been derived by the same methodology used previously in all eports. The upper end of the range is weighted by a new factor -- tons of ordnance dropped. We are not certain that this method yields a more accurate result; it is still being discussed with DIA analysts. Hence, we called 1966 preliminary and showed the results of both methods. Our best estimate is that the old method (lower end of range) will prevail, but we'd like to carry on the discussions briefly.

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6. You will note that the methodology question concerns only civilian armed recommaissance casualties. Civilian essualties from strikes on fixed tergets and military essualties from all causes rest on other methodologies and are not in question.



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